***Almost Home***

By Joan Bauer

Booktalk by Cynthia Perales

This here is Shush, new member to the Cole household where Sugar Mae and her mother Reba live ......or rather lived.

See Sugar's life is not perfect.

Her grandfather has died and her mother lost her job. Her father comes and goes, but has not been around for a long time, due to his addictions.

And that is just the beginning to Sugar's story.

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       A pry bar broke the lock on our door and the sheriff busted in.  He took one look at Reba standing there, small and pretty; she had all her makeup on and the sparkly earrings Mr. Leeland gave her the last time he won big at poker.

    The sheriff coughed, "I hate this part of my job," he said.

    Reba raised her chin and said each word slow.  "I would dearly hope so, sir."

    Reba stood there like a Southern belle who didn't take guff from anyone. "Mr. Leeland, my husband, has the check for the bank, but unfortunately , he has been delayed.  I informed the bank of this.  I informed your office."

    Reba, if you think he's coming, you're crazy.

Join Sugar on her journey that takes her from her home in Missouri to Chicago and into foster care and begins to understand that while she can't control the hand life deals her, she can control how she responds.